

Town Council Meeting: 12 December 2005



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. The start of the meeting was delayed so that residents could meet with Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Louis Simmons. Present were Councilmembers Benjamin, Soltan, and Wegner, Administrator Pratt, Margaret Soltan of *The Bugle*, and a reporter from *The Gazette*. There were also numerous Town residents present.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Shawaker asked that the Agenda be amended to include in Action/Discussion a consideration of a request by Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area for a resolution of support for the organization's application for the Maryland Community Investment Tax Credit Program.

Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the Agenda be amended to include the Junior Achievement chapter's request. Councilmember Soltan seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Shawaker thanked the Town's maintenance staff for their efficient response to the season's first snowstorm. The Mayor then wished all and sundry a happy Holiday Season.
- Mayor Shawaker noted the absence of Councilmember Altar, away on business, and Councilmember Bennett, who is in the hospital.

Councilmember Soltan **MOVED**

That it is the command of the Mayor and Council that Councilmember Art Bennett shall get well forthwith because he is very much missed. The motion was **PASSED** by acclaim. The Mayor then instructed the Clerk to prepare a suitable copy for her to take to Geri Lee Bennett for delivery to Art.

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Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10/10/05 be approved as distributed. Councilmember Wegner seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

Councilmember Wegner **MOVED**

That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11/14/05 be approved as distributed. Councilmember Soltan seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

Action/Discussion:

- Introduction of Ordinance 2005-06: Revisions to the FY 2006 Budget - Councilmember Benjamin reviewed with the Council a proposed amendment of the FY 2005 budget designed to make it easier to interpret and to adjust for changed financial needs and resources since its original adoption. After discussion Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That Ordinance 2006-01 amending the FY 2006 budget be introduced (The Ordinance is attached to these minutes). Councilmember Wegner seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

- Update on Penn Place Parking - Councilmember Wegner asked Penn Place Parking Committee Chair Dennis Collins to update the Council on the Committee's progress. Mr. Collins passed out a number of documents (attached to these minutes) for the Council's review and reported that the committee had met on November 29th. Councilmember Wegner called the Council's attention to the "Scope of Work" that Mr. Collins had passed out.

Committee Member Bob Calvert commented that the committee was divided on a number of issues, including re-installation of the center island, providing adequate parking for CSX and Penn Place.

Councilmember Benjamin stated that he did not feel the Council should get involved in adjudicating differences within the committee at this early stage, and requested the committee to present either a consensus view or alternate views when its work is complete. He also asked that adequate parking for people using Penn Place be considered as one criterion for the evaluation of the proposal.

Councilmember Soltan stated that he would find it helpful to hear the committee's report. Councilmember Wegner stated that he agreed with Councilmember Benjamin, that the committee should not take up the Council's time with a public argument on differences within the committee, and that the Council should wait for the committee's report before discussing the merits of any design feature.

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Mayor Shawaker reported that committee member John Bennett, who was not present at this meeting, wanted to see a cost-benefit analysis of the various options as part of the committees report.

Committee Member Chuck Berry asked the Council to review his comments, which had been distributed by Dennis Collins. Mr. Berry further pointed out that he felt everyone should be able to have their say at a Council meeting. After discussion Mr. Collins stated that he would rework the Scope of Work document and also meet with Administrator Pratt to review the availability of funds within the budget.

- Mayor Shawaker asked the Council to consider the request from Junior Achievement for a resolution in support of its application for the Maryland Community Investment Tax Credit Program. After discussion it was the sense of the Council that it did not have enough information to make an informed decision.

Town Administrator Report:

Town Administrator Pratt reviewed the Monthly Financials with the Council.

Adjournment: There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted

[TOWN SEAL]

Edwin Pratt, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer